

Remarks of Ambassador Philip T. Reeker

May 26, 2011

Ambassador Reeker: Thank you very much Darko! It is a pleasure to be here today and I very much appreciated the briefing our colleagues and I received from Darko and his team here at MOST. The U.S. Embassy and USAID are very pleased to be supporting MOST in its election monitoring efforts.

These are very important elections for Macedonia's future and the effort to monitor them, to help ensure that these are free and fair elections that meet the standards that we would expect of Macedonia as a European country are very important to us, so we are very pleased to support this.

MOST is in a very good position to do this; it is an independent organization, it is an organization of citizens and these elections are about citizens, about citizenship, and about the citizens of this country having a say in the future that they want to have. So, once again, I encourage all citizens to participate in the elections, to get out and vote, to remember and know that your vote is secret.

There is no place in these elections for intimidation or coercion. Individual citizens should get out and inform themselves and then cast their ballots according to their vision and desires for the future.

So, again, we thank MOST and their team of dedicated citizens for the efforts they are making in these elections, and of course we will, with our colleagues in the international community, be watching very closely and ODIHR and OSCE will of course issue their report and findings after these elections following June 5.

Thank you!